

House Republican Press Release

August 6, 2004
Press Office: 860-240-8700

\$200,000 Teen Center Grant Approved



Gov. Jodi Rell Provides Support for Wilton Teens

State Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143rd, Wilton, Norwalk, announced that the state Bond Commission has given final approval to a \$200,000 state grant to help complete the Wilton Teen Center. The commission met Friday, August 6, in Hartford as anticipated.

This state grant will provide additional funds to remove rock ledge on the site and meet fire safety requirements.

The teen center building at the town-owned Dana House on Station Road near the railroad station is now being renovated and expanded, and it is expected to open later this year. It is being financed with municipal funds and individual donations.

Rep. Boucher said Keith Overland, head of a Wilton parents' group and chairman of the Governor's Committee on Physical Fitness, had come to her some months earlier to help find additional funding to deal with a serious problem of rock ledge discovered on the site that jeopardized the project.

"Thanks to our new governor, Jodi Rell, for her support of this project and the teens of Wilton," said Rep. Boucher. "I know there is tough competition for limited state funds, and we owe the governor our gratitude for placing this item on the bond agenda for funding. She is again indicating her concern for our state's young residents and for our town of Wilton."

"The parents' group had worked tirelessly for more than four years to build a teen center to help provide alternative activities to substance abuse among teenagers," said Rep. Boucher. "I then urged our ranking member on the Finance Bonding Subcommittee to seek state funding. Subsequently, the state Office of Policy and Management and Governor Rell agreed the project is deserving of state assistance."